

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 19886 081559Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 IOE-00 EB-07 /063 W
-----105685 081719Z /43
P R 081552Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5385
INFO USMISSION USUN
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19886

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH CANDIDATE FOR UN UNDERSECRETARY GENERAL
FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

REF: (A) STATE 154450, (B) GENEVA 5461 (EXDIS)

1. CORRECT SPELLING OF FRENCH CHOICE TO REPLACE VAN
LAETHAM AT UNDERSECRETARY GENERAL POST IN UN, AS MEN-
TIONED IN REFTELS, IS JEAN RIPERT, COMMISSIONER FOR THE
PLAN.

2. RIPERT, BORN IN 1922, HOLDS A DEGREE IN AGRONOMY.
HE HAS HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN NATIONA NG,
HAVING SERVED AS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR THE FRENCH PLAN
FROM 1963 TO 1966, AND SINCE OCTOBER 1974 HAS BEEN
COMMISSIONER FOR THE PLAN, THE SENIOR POSITION INVOLVED
WITH FRENCH FIVE-YEAR PLANNING. FROM 1967 TO 1974 RIPERT
WAS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STA-
TISTICS AND ECONOMIC STUDIES (INSEE), THE FRENCH NATIO-
NAL STATISTICS BUREAU.

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3. EMBASSY HAS HAD ONLY LIMITED CONTACTS WITH RIPERT.
HE IS REGARDED AS A VERY COMPETENT SENIOR BUREAUCRAT.
AS HEAD OF INSEE HE WAS CONSIDERED TO BE MORE OF AN
ADMINISTRATOR THAN AN ECONOMIC THEORETICIAN, BUT NO
ONE HAS ANY DOUBTS ABOUT HIS INTELLECTUAL CAPABILITIES.
ALTHOUGH RIPERT IS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE ANY STRONG POLITI-
CAL PARTY AFFILIATIONS, HE IS PUBLICLY ASSOCIATED WITH

THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT MAJORITY BY VIRTUE OF HIS PROMINENT POSITION; HE HAS OPENLY CRITICIZED THE LEFT'S ECONOMIC PLATFORMS. RIPERT APPEARS TO ESPOUSE THE TRADITIONAL FRENCH APPROACH TO ECONOMICS AND MONETARY POLICY, WHICH PUTS HIM IN OPPOSITION TO THE US ON FLOATING EXCHANGES AND OTHER ISSUES. ALTHOUGH HIS ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE DOES NOT ALWAYS COINCIDE WITH THAT OF THE US, EMBASSY HAS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT RIPERT IS VISCERALLY OR DOGMATICALLY HOSTILE TO THE US OVERALL.

4. RIPERT IS A TALL, IMPOSING FIGURE WHO CAN PROJECT A GOOD DEAL OF AUTHORITY -- AND CHARM -- WHEN THE OCCASION REQUIRES. HIS ENGLISH IS EXCELLENT.

HARTMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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